1. Key Points from the Source

Author: Scott Ritter **Title:** A New Middle Eastern Power Paradigm

1. **Failed US-Israel Military Gamble:** The United States and Israel engaged in a failed surprise attack on Iran on February 28. This gamble resulted in a loss for both the primary actors and their Gulf Arab allies who were consulted.
2. **Lack of Political or Military Success:** The practitioners of the attack achieved no discernable objectives. Goals such as **regime change, missile suppression, and control of the Strait of Hormuz** remained unachieved.
3. **Forced Ceasefire and Iranian Control:** The anti-Iranian coalition was ultimately compelled to seek a ceasefire. This agreement left Iran in **total control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz**, impacting regional and global energy transit.
4. **Iranian Military Resilience:** Iran's military remained intact and defiant despite the conflict. It demonstrated the capability to deliver **devastating blows** to the "lairs" of its enemies.
5. **Erosion of US Power Projection:** The 40-day war highlighted that the US ability to project force in the Middle East has eroded significantly. The source describes this current state of US military influence as reaching a point of **"near impotence"**.
6. **Failure of US-Centered Security Architecture:** The decades-old security framework centered on the US has failed to protect critical energy chokepoints. Specifically, it could not prevent Iran from acquiring **de facto control** over these vital transit routes.
7. **Shift to a Multipolar Framework:** The region is transitioning away from US military-centric deterrence. Future security will derive from **economic reality** and involve powers like **Russia, China, and BRICS-like relationships**.
8. **Obsolete Military Doctrine:** Legacy military doctrines that formed the basis of old security relationships are no longer viable. Any attempt to revive these doctrines is viewed as **prohibitively expensive and unachievable**.
9. **Ineffectiveness of Defense Spending:** US failure is attributed to a reliance on a military-centric approach to regional problem-solving. The source asserts that **no amount of defense spending** can reverse this loss of effectiveness.
10. **Crisis for Gulf Arab Strategic Postures:** Nations like the Gulf Arab States and India now face a difficult reality regarding their strategic security. Their postures were grounded on the **unfulfilled promise of American military dominance**,.
11. **Threats to Globalization:** Leaders now warn that the precedent of losing control over the Strait of Hormuz puts other global chokepoints at risk. This situation threatens the **"rule-of-law"** and risks wider conflict and the disruption of globalization.
12. **Transition to Economic Networks:** Peace in the region is increasingly viewed as depending on **co-prosperity, pipelines, and trade**. There is a shift in focus toward sustainable economic networks rather than military occupation,.
13. **Vindication of Iranian Policy:** Iran has promoted policies centered on economic networks for decades, though they were previously ignored. Their neighbors previously felt secure behind a **US security umbrella** that the source claims proved to be illusory.

14. **India’s Strategic Misalignment:** Indian officials are described as residing in a "never-never land," hoping for a return to the pre-conflict status quo. India has historically sided with the US and Israel, which the source suggests is the **wrong side of the equation**,.
15. **Permanent Closure of Hormuz for the West:** The Strait of Hormuz is effectively closed to those who relied on US naval power to keep it open. Past assumptions that the **US Navy would automatically reopen the passage** no longer hold true,.
16. **Insufficient Infrastructure Contingencies:** While energy producers are seeking alternative pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Fujairah, these are insufficient. The majority of the region's energy capacity remains **locked in the Persian Gulf**.
17. **Gulf Arab States’ Complicity:** Gulf states provided facilities and territory for the US and Israel to stage the February 28 attack. This history of collusion makes current demands for "Iranian good faith" appear **manifestly arrogant**,.
18. **Inevitability of Diplomatic Solutions:** Diplomacy is presented as the **only path forward** that avoids the total destruction of Gulf states. A resumption of war is not an option, as these states would not survive a second conflict,.
19. **Vulnerability of Energy Infrastructure:** Iran has published a list of strategic energy production sites it will target if attacked again. Such an attack would result in the **permanent crippling** of the energy-based economies of the Gulf states,.
20. **Removal of US Presence:** Any diplomatic solution must acknowledge and comply with Iranian demands for the **removal of the US military** from the region. The source concludes that the US is now the problem, rather than the solution, in the Middle East.

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2. Source Rewrite

A New Middle Eastern Power Paradigm

It is a bad time to be a Gulf Arab State. The United States and Israel took a gamble when launching their surprise attack on Iran on February 28 of this year; to the extent that they were consulted beforehand, America’s Gulf Arab allies did so as well. They lost. No discernable political or military objectives were attained by the practitioners of perfidy—neither regime change, missile suppression, nor control of the Strait of Hormuz.

Instead, the anti-Iranian cabal was compelled to seek a ceasefire that left Iran in total control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, throttling both regional and global economies by blocking the transit of the very energy that they rely upon for their functioning. Its military remains intact, capable, and defiant—able to deliver devastatingly damaging blows to their enemies' lairs. The 40-day war between the US/Israeli/Gulf Arab States cabal and Iran has underscored a reality that is difficult for many to accept: that the military capability of the United States to project force into the Middle East has eroded to the point of near impotence, and that the original US-centered security architecture that has been in place for decades has failed to prevent Iran from acquiring de facto control over the very energy chokepoints the US was supposed to secure,.

This new reality will compel the region and the world to move away from concepts centered on US-based military-centric deterrence to a multipolar security framework derived from economic reality, which will involve Russia, China, and BRICS-like relationships. The legacy military doctrine upon which the old security relationships were founded is no longer viable; any effort to revive legacy military doctrine would be prohibitively expensive and, ultimately, unachievable. In short, the US lost because its foundational military-centric approach toward regional problem-solving was no longer effective, and no amount of defense spending can reverse this reality,.

This is going to be a very difficult reality for those nations, like the Gulf Arab States and India, who had grounded their strategic postures on the premise and promise of American military dominance. Now, these nations warn the world about the weakening of the rule-of-law when it comes to losing control of the Strait of Hormuz, noting that there are numerous similar chokepoints which could be at risk if the Hormuz precedent stands—risking wider conflict and disruption of globalization. These leaders now promote the notion that peace depends on co-prosperity, pipelines, trade, and sustainable economic networks rather than military occupation or escalation,,.

These, of course, were precisely the policies Iran has been promoting for decades, only to be given the stiff arm by their Arab neighbors who felt safe and secure behind a US security umbrella which proved illusory. Indian officials likewise reside in a never-never land which seeks a return to the pre-conflict status quo. It is too late for this, however. India has habitually been on the wrong side of the equation when it comes to Iran, siding with Israel (which Prime Minister Modi visited on the eve of the war) and the US when it comes to Iran and its strategic partners, like China. India’s involvement in the Quad does not escape notice at a time when the US is promoting the naval blockade of Iranian shipping,.

The reality for the Gulf Arab States is that the Strait of Hormuz is effectively closed and that their past assumptions about the automatic military-based reopening by the US Navy no longer hold. While the energy-producing nations of the region seek concrete contingency measures—such as expanded use of the East–West pipelines in Saudi Arabia and proposals for additional pipelines and increased loading capacity at Yambor and Fujairah—the reality is that the majority of the region's energy production capacity remains locked in the Persian Gulf, unable to reach market. Even if the war ended today, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and regional infrastructure recovery would require months to resolve,.

The arrogance of the Gulf Arab States remains manifest, however. These nations posture that the Gulf states need not accommodate Iran and that these same Gulf states are waiting for Iranian good faith before engaging on solutions to the problems that exist today. It’s as if the Gulf Arab States didn’t have decades of history of colluding with the US and Israel against Iran, including providing facilities and territory used by both nations to stage the military, intelligence, and logistical resources which enabled the February 28 surprise attack. The Gulf Arab States were complicit in the attack; Iran isn’t buying it,.

The bottom line is that the Gulf Arab states have effectively lost whatever strategic position they enjoyed before the war. Instead of seeking a reset to a time when their complicity was ongoing yet not openly acknowledged, the Gulf Arab States must—if they wish to survive this current crisis

intact—accept the strategic defeat of the US-led regional anti-Iranian cabal and recognize the permanence and prominence of the Islamic Republic. To do this, these Gulf Arab States must learn to think beyond a US-dominated paradigm and instead embrace a new reality where Russia, China, and eastern powers factor into future security planning,.

Simply put, a resumption of the war is not an option the Gulf Arab States can entertain, if for no other reason than that they will not survive such a turn of events. The Iranian government has published the strategic energy production infrastructure which will be targeted for destruction by Iran should Iran be subjected to an attack. If Iran were to follow through on its threats—and past precedent strongly indicates it would do so—then the Gulf Arab States would suffer permanent crippling of their energy-based economic capacity, which would be the death knell for these nations as viable modern nation states,.

Diplomacy is the only path forward that does not lead to the certain destruction of the Gulf Arab States. There is no military option. And given the fact that Iran holds all the cards (despite what President Trump says), the Gulf Arab States must understand that any diplomatic solution to the current crisis must acknowledge and comply with Iranian demands to remove the US military presence from the region. The bottom line is that, going forward in the Middle East, there must be a recognition by all parties involved that the US is the problem, not the solution, and any nation which continues to rely upon the US to get them out of the current predicament will only find sorrow and despair. There is a new Middle Eastern power paradigm at play today. And it doesn't include the United States,,.

KEYNOTES.PAGE

Title: A New Middle Eastern Power Paradigm
Author: Scott Ritter

- **The Collapse of US Hegemony:** The failed military intervention against Iran on February 28 marked a turning point where US force projection was revealed to be nearly impotent. Decades of reliance on a US-centered security architecture have ended in failure, as the US proved unable to secure the very energy chokepoints it was tasked to protect. This shift signals the end of an era where regional problems could be solved through American military-centric approaches.
- **Iranian Strategic Dominance:** Following the conflict, Iran remains in total control of the Strait of Hormuz, giving it the power to throttle regional and global energy markets. Its military remains fully intact and has demonstrated a willingness to target critical energy infrastructure if provoked,. Consequently, Iran now "holds all the cards" in any regional diplomatic or military negotiation.
- **The Multipolar Security Shift:** The region is rapidly moving toward a new security framework that prioritizes economic reality over legacy military doctrine. This new paradigm involves significant roles for Russia, China, and BRICS nations, moving away from a

US-dominated model,. Security is now being redefined through co-prosperity, trade networks, and pipelines rather than military occupation,.

- **Existential Risks for Gulf Arab States:** The Gulf Arab States, having been complicit in the US-led attack on Iran, now face the potential for permanent economic destruction,. Their energy-based economies are extremely vulnerable to Iranian retaliation, which would serve as a "death knell" for their status as modern nation-states. To survive, they must abandon their arrogance and accept the prominence of the Islamic Republic.
- **Diplomacy as the Sole Option:** There is no longer a viable military option for the US or its allies in the Middle East. Diplomacy is the only path that avoids certain destruction, but it requires meeting Iranian demands for the complete removal of the US military presence,. Nations that continue to look to the US for solutions are predicted to find only "sorrow and despair".